Places without rail link

4034. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any asessment of various district headquarters and important places, still not linked with rail lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government would make such an assessment;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Most of the important towns and district headquarters in the country have been provided with access to rail services. The expansion of the rail network is a continuous and need based exercise that is undertaken by taking an integrated view of the nation's requirement and keeping the overall resource availability in mind. While doing so, all representations/proposals received from the State Government, public representatives, user agencies, and other public interest groups/individuals are also kept in mind. At present about 8500 Kms. of new rail lines are sanctioned at a cost of approx. Rs. 27,650 Crores.

Shyamsundar-Chanchai rail line

4035. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the final location survey work on the Shyamsundar-Chanchai new rail line as a material modification to the ongoing Bankura Damodar River Railway Gauge conversion Project has been completed;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the delay; and

(d) by when the Shyamsundar-Chanchai Halt is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The final location survey for extension for BDR

gauge conversion project from Shyamsundar (Rainagar) to Chanchai has been completed recently. The cost of this 20.90 km long line has been assessed as Rs. 47.77 crore. The work will be progressed and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Retail rail ticketing in A.P.

4036. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any action plan to proliferate retail rail ticketing and for improvement in customer services at railway counters and stations in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (b) With a view to improving selling of tickets and customer services in the state of Andhra Pradesh, the following important steps have been/been taken:—

(i) Extension of computerised Passenger Reservation facility at 14 additional locations.

(ii) Self-Printing Ticket Machines for issue of unreserved tickets have been provided at important stations.

(iii) National Train Enquiry System (NTES) terminals have been provided at important locations for obtaining information regarding the train running position.

(iv) Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) and Passenger Operated Enquiry Terminals have been provided at important stations for enquiries at stations.

Doubling of Ghaziabad-Moradabad rail line

†4037. CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of Ghaziabad-Moradabad section of rail line, in which year the foundation stone was laid and the work started for its conversion into double line;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.